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GOVERNORS
of
INDIANA

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GOVERNORS
OF
INDIANA
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Page 1

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no. 1

INDIANA

THE earliest known inhabitants of Indiana, were for want of a better name, called the Mound Builders, so-called from their custom of building huge mounds, in which to bury their dead. Whence they came, who they were, or what became of them, no one knows. Following the Mound Builders, perhaps long, long afterwards, came the Indians, concerning whose origin, likewise there is much uncertainty. Following the Indians, came the French missionaries and settlers from Canada, a simple, kindly, pleasure-loving people, who lived by hunting and trapping and gave little attention to the pursuit of agriculture. Then came the English speaking Colonists from Kentucky and Virginia, who founded the southern tier of counties along the Ohio river, and began the first serious attempt to tame the wilderness.

The original Indiana Territory included the present States of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and a part of Minnesota. The first Capital of the Territory was located at Vincennes, but in 1813 it was removed to Corydon, because Corydon at that time was nearer the center of population. However, the northern part of the Territory settled rapidly, and it was soon necessary to revise the system of government and the boundary division. When the Territory was created by an act of Congress, May 7, 1800, its population was only 5,641, about 2,500 being in Indiana proper. By 1809 the population had so grown, that Illinois and the northern country were made a separate Territory, and Indiana Territory was given almost the same boundaries as now enclose the State. In 1815 the population had increased to 63,897 and the Territorial Legislature petitioned Congress to have Indiana admitted to statehood. This act was passed by Congress on April 19, 1816 and was signed by James Madison, President of the United States. The business of the new State was administered from Corydon, but soon the Representatives from the northern counties demanded a more central seat of Government, and in 1821 the site of what is now Indianapolis was chosen for the State Capital by five commissioners appointed by the State Legislature for that purpose. Congress donated four sections of land, 2,560 acres, for the new Capital, but the removal from Corydon was not made until 1824. The first meeting of the General Assembly was held in Indianapolis in June, 1825. The State's offices were located in the Marion County court house, until the new state house was built, in 1835. It was on the site of the present state house and was considered a very fine building in its day. It was torn down in 1878. The present State Capitol building was completed in 1888. Since Indiana's birth as a State, its history has been one of continued progress. It early gained fame for its agricultural development; later its coal and oil fields added billions to its wealth, and it now has taken a high place as a manufacturing center. With all its natural and acquired riches, Indiana has not neglected the arts. Its poets, authors, artists and statesmen have attained national renown, and have given to it a reputation second to none as a cultural center.

WILLIAM H. HARRISON

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, the first governor of Indiana Territory, was born in Berkeley, Virginia, February 9, 1773. He was the youngest son of Benjamin Harrison, prominent in revolutionary times. His education was obtained at Hampden-Sidney College, and he had made some progress in the study of medicine, when at the age of 19, his college career was cut short by a call to arms to fight the Indians. He fought under General St. Clair and General Wayne. He was promoted to Captain in 1795 and assigned to the command of Fort Washington, Ohio, (now Cincinnati). In 1798, President Adams appointed him secretary of the Northwestern Territory under Governor St. Clair, and in 1799 he was sent as a delegate to Congress. When Indiana became a Territory, he became its Governor and Superintendent of Indian affairs. He continued to hold these offices under Presidents Jefferson and Madison. He was very successful in dealing with the Indians and effected many important treaties. As a soldier he was no less successful. It was during the autumn of 1811 that occurred the battle of Tippecanoe, where a force of regulars and volunteers, led by General Harrison, decisively defeated a large body of Indians. This battle foiled the plans of Tecumseh and the Prophet, his brother, for a general uprising and massacre of the whites. General Harrison's military career ended in 1814, when he resigned his commission rather than accept an assignment to a post which he disliked. At the close of the war with Great Britain in 1814, he returned to his farm at North Bend, Ohio, near Cincinnati. In 1816 he was elected to Congress from the State of Ohio, and served in this position for three years. Later he served two years as a Senator in the Ohio Legislature, and in 1824 was sent to the United States Senate, but resigned in 1828, when President Adams made him United States Minister to Colombia. In 1835 he was nominated to the Presidency of the United States, but was defeated. In 1839 the National Whig Convention at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, nominated him for President, and then began the Log Cabin and Hard Cider campaign. His political opponents belittled his talents and tried to make the people believe he was ignorant and unfit for the high office of President. They said he was a backwoodsman, lived in a log cabin and treated his guests to hard cider. His supporters quickly took their cue, and boldly adopted a log cabin as their emblem. When the election was held he had 234 electoral votes against 60 for Van Buren. However, his occupancy of the office was very brief, for he died suddenly one month later. He was buried at North Bend, Ohio.



WILLIAM H. HARRISON
TERRITORIAL GOVERNOR 1800-1811

JOHN GIBSON

JOHN GIBSON was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, May 23, 1740. He received a good education and when eighteen years old took part in a British expedition against the French at Fort DuQuesne (now Pittsburgh). The expedition was successful, resulting in the capture of the fort. When peace was declared, Gibson settled there and began business as an Indian trader. At one time he, with other white men, was captured by the savages and condemned to be burned at the stake, but his life was saved by an aged squaw who had lost a son in battle. She took a fancy to the young trader and adopted him into her family. He lived among the Indians for several years, learned their language and became familiar with their manners and customs. However, the life proved distasteful to him, and when a suitable opportunity presented he made his escape and resumed his former occupation of trading. Upon the breaking out of the American Revolution he was appointed Colonel and raised a regiment. Later he was promoted to General and placed in command of the troops on the Western Frontier. When the war ended he again returned to Pittsburgh and continued to follow his old occupation of trading with the Indians. In 1778, General Gibson was elected a member of the convention that made the first constitution of Pennsylvania. Subsequently he was for several years Judge of the Common Pleas of Allegheny County, at the same time serving as General of the State Militia. When Congress passed an act dividing the Northwestern Territory and creating Indiana territory, President Jefferson appointed General Gibson its Secretary. He at once started for its capital, Vincennes. His thorough knowledge of Indian affairs enabled him to fulfill the duties of his office in an admirable manner. Upon the retirement of Governor Harrison from office, General Gibson became Acting Governor, and served until 1813. General Gibson continued for a while to live at Vincennes. Later he removed to Pennsylvania, and died near Pittsburgh, April 10, 1822, at the age of 82 years. General Gibson was a shrewd and capable man, and he enjoyed the confidence and esteem of those who knew him.

There is not in existence any known
likeness of Governor John Gibson

JOHN GIBSON
TERRITORIAL GOVERNOR 1811-18

THOMAS POSEY

THOMAS POSEY was Indiana's third and last territorial Governor. He was a native of Virginia, and was born July 9, 1750, on a farm on the banks of the Potomac river. With only a common school education, he carved out a career for himself of which many a man might be proud. Life on his father's farm well fitted him for the hard knocks he was to encounter in later life. Prompted by a spirit of adventure and a desire to see more of the world, when nineteen years old, young Posey left home and went to the Western part of the State, then the frontier of civilization. It was in the year 1774, the year of Dunmore's expedition against the Indians, and young Posey eagerly accepted the opportunity to join it. He fought in one of the bloodiest battles ever fought between Indians and white men. Seventy-five Virginians were killed outright and one hundred and forty wounded, while the Indians' loss was far greater. Like General Gibson, Posey was a revolutionary soldier, and raised a company of men to fight for American Independence. He successively became Captain, Major and General, and fought in many of the hardest battles of the war, including Saratoga, Monmouth, Stony Point and Yorktown. He was with General Wayne in a battle near Savannah, Georgia, and in a fierce fight with the Indians, Posey killed several with his own hands. He was with General Green in South Carolina when peace was declared. In 1785 Posey was appointed Colonel of the militia of his county, and the next year was made County Lieutenant, an office of much honor and dignity. During the war between the United States and England, he was made Major-General to organize Kentucky troops. During the war of 1812, he served with distinction in Louisiana. Later he was sent by Louisiana as Senator to the United States Senate. On March 3, 1813, President Madison appointed him Governor of Indiana Territory, to succeed Acting Governor Gibson. He entered upon his duties as Governor at the age of sixty-three years. Soon afterward the Territorial Capital was removed to Corydon. Governor Posey's health became impaired, and finding that the climate did not agree with him, he removed to Jeffersonville. During his official term, the Constitutional Convention which made Indiana a State, was held at Corydon, and by reason of this change in the government, the office of Territorial Governor was abolished. Governor Posey was nominated for Governor of the new State of Indiana but was defeated by Jonathan Jennings. Shortly afterward he was appointed Indian agent for Illinois Territory, and died at Shawneetown, Illinois, March 19, 1818.



THOMAS POSEY
TERRITORIAL GOVERNOR 1813-1816

JONATHAN JENNINGS

JONATHAN JENNINGS, the first Governor of the State of Indiana, was born in Hunterdon County, New Jersey, in 1784. His father was a Presbyterian minister, and soon after Jonathan's birth removed to Fayette County, Pennsylvania. He received a common school education and later attended a grammar school at Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, where he gained some proficiency in mathematics and the classics. After completing his education, while still a young man, he removed to Jeffersonville, Indiana, where he applied himself assiduously to the study of law, afterward serving as clerk to the Territorial Legislature. He was strongly opposed to the institution of slavery, which was then attracting much attention in Indiana Territory, and in the race for Territorial Delegate to Congress in 1809, he defeated Thomas Randolph, who favored it. Governor Jennings took a prominent part in the proceedings of Congress, and was active in having Indiana admitted to statehood. He was but thirty-two years old when he became its first Governor, defeating Thomas Posey. The latter's advocacy of slavery tended largely to his defeat. Governor Jennings showed high ability in putting into motion the machinery of the new State. His office was a trying one, but he proved himself equal to the task, and it is doubtful whether an abler man could have been selected for the office. Governor Jennings was re-elected to the executive chair in 1819, defeating Christopher Harrison. The following year he was appointed a Commissioner to select a permanent location for the State's Capital. In 1822 he was elected a Representative to United States Congress, and resigned his office of Governor to accept this position. The remaining three months of the Governor's term were completed by Ratliff Boone, Lieutenant-Governor. Governor Jennings continued to represent his district in Congress for a period of eight years, being defeated for re-election in 1830 by General John Carr. On leaving Congress, Governor Jennings removed to his farm near Charlestown, Indiana. In 1832, President Jackson appointed him Commissioner to negotiate a treaty with the Indians for the Indian lands in Northern Indiana and Southern Michigan. His reputation for truth among the Indians was such that he had much influence with them, and rendered his country invaluable service. Governor Jennings died at his home at Charlestown on July 26, 1834.



JONATHAN JENNINGS
GOVERNOR OF INDIANA 1816-1822

RATLIFF BOONE

RATLIFF BOONE, the second Governor of Indiana, was Lieutenant-Governor under Governor Jennings. He succeeded Governor Jennings when Jennings resigned the office after being elected to a seat in Congress. Writers disagree as to Boone's birth place, some claiming that North Carolina is the State of his birth, while others claim that he was born in Georgia. However, all agree that he was born in 1781. He was a gunsmith by trade, came to Indiana in 1809, and was shortly afterward elected the first treasurer of Warrick County, which office he held for several years. He was elected a member of the first House of Representatives after Indiana became a State, and in 1818 he was elected from Warrick County to the State Senate. Three years later he was elected Lieutenant-Governor on the ticket with Governor Jennings. In 1822 Governor Boone was re-elected Lieutenant-Governor on the ticket with William Hendricks, but resigned the office to become a candidate for Representative to Congress. He was elected to this position, and served continuously until 1839. After leaving Congress he removed to Missouri, where he died on November 20, 1844, at the age of sixty-three years. Governor Boone was a type of man common in those early days. He came from the same Kentucky Boone ancestry as Daniel Boone, and shared with his illustrious kinsman the reputation for self reliance and fearlessness.



RAFAEL BOONE
GOVERNOR OF INDIANA 1822

WILLIAM HENDRICKS

WILLIAM HENDRICKS, the third Governor of Indiana, was born in 1783, at Ligonier, Pennsylvania. He was an uncle of Thomas A. Hendricks, who later became Governor of Indiana and Vice-President of the United States. William Hendricks received only a common school education, but being studious and ambitious, he read widely and stored his mind with much valuable information which he later put to excellent use. He came to Madison, Indiana, in 1814, bringing with him a printing press, with which he established "The Eagle," the second newspaper published in Indiana. As an editor he was painstaking and enterprising, and soon gained a wide acquaintance. In his spare moments he studied law, and was admitted to the bar. He made the first revision of the laws of the State, and printed it on his own press. Declining to receive pay for this task, he was voted a resolution of thanks by the Legislature. During the year 1814, he was elected a member of the Territorial Legislature, and was chosen Speaker of the House of Representatives. When the Constitutional Convention was held in 1816, he was made its Secretary, and when Indiana became a State, he was elected a Representative to the United States Congress, and was twice re-elected to this honorable position. In 1822, when thirty-nine years of age, he was unanimously elected Governor of Indiana. His popularity was such that, before his term of office had expired, he was elected a United States Senator, and in 1831 was re-elected to this high office. For more than twenty years, he served the State in three of the highest offices its people could bestow. He retired to private life in 1837, and never afterward held public office. Governor Hendricks had always carefully husbanded his resources and by judicious investments in real estate and its rapid increase in value, he became quite wealthy. Himself having had only a meagre opportunity to gain an education, he was the more able to appreciate its advantages, and was always ready with purse and counsel to promote the cause of education, as well as other public enterprises. Governor Hendricks was of large stature and muscular build. He had auburn hair, blue eyes and a florid complexion. His manners were easy and dignified and his address that of a well bred gentleman. It is to be regretted that there is no likeness of him extant. He died very suddenly May 16, 1850, at his farm near Madison, Indiana.

There is not in existence any known
likeness of Governor William Henry's

WILLIAM HENRY
GOVERNOR OF INDIANA 1800-1802

JAMES B. RAY

JAMES BROWN RAY, the fourth Governor of Indiana, was born in Jefferson County, Kentucky, February 19, 1794. When quite young, he went to Cincinnati, Ohio, and studied law in the office of General Gano. He soon afterward removed to Brookville, Indiana, and commenced the practice of law. Brookville, even at that early date, was quite an important town, and was the home of many able and ambitious men. The young Kentuckian took an active interest in public affairs and in December 1822, was sent by Franklin County to the State Senate. In 1824, when Ratliff Boone, then Lieutenant-Governor of the State, resigned his office, Ray was elected president pro tem. of the Senate. He presided over the proceedings of the Senate with such ability and fairness that it bestowed upon him a resolution of thanks. While but a young man he had become one of the most popular and influential politicians of the State. In 1825, he was elected Governor of Indiana, his opponent being Isaac Blackford. Upon the completion of his term, he was re-elected, and held the office of Governor until the inauguration of Noah Noble in 1831. During Governor Ray's incumbency of the Governor's chair, he was appointed a Federal Commissioner to negotiate a treaty with the Miami and Pottawatomie Indians, his assistants in the commission being Generals Carr and Tipton. Their work was very successful, but Governor Ray's acceptance of this office, while retaining that of Governor, excited the jealousy of politicians and embroiled him in a controversy which caused much bitterness of feeling on both sides. This feeling was accentuated when, in 1830, the term of the Supreme Judges having expired, he reappointed Judge Blackford and refused to appoint Judges Scott and Holman. It was charged at the time, and very generally believed, that his refusal to re-appoint Judges Scott and Holman was because they had declined to aid him in his Senatorial aspirations. It is difficult to ascertain his motives, but this action of Governor Ray caused him the loss of many friends. Up to that time he was the most popular man in the State, but his popularity rapidly waned. He was a man of marked eccentricities, and the loss of his prestige preyed upon his mind and embittered the closing years of his life. He died in 1848 at the age of fifty-four years, and was buried in Spring Grove cemetery, near Cincinnati.



JAMES B. RAY
GOVERNOR OF INDIANA 1825-1831

NOAH NOBLE

NOAH NOBLE, the fifth Governor of Indiana, was born in Clark County, Virginia, January 15, 1794, but left there when quite young and went to Kentucky, where he remained until he had reached manhood. He then removed to Brookville, Indiana, where his brother James had previously settled and held public office. Noah Noble took an active part in politics, and in 1820 became Sheriff of Franklin County, to which office he was re-elected in 1822. In August, 1824, he was chosen a Representative to the State Legislature. At that time he was probably the most popular man in Franklin County, so popular indeed that his name was prominently mentioned as a candidate for the Governor's office. However, this honor was not attained by him until several years afterward. In the meantime, in 1826, Lazarus Noble, a young brother of Noah, was appointed by President Adams to the office of Receiver of Public Moneys for the Brookville Land District. Shortly afterward, this office was removed to Indianapolis, and while on his way to that place, Lazarus Noble died. Noah Noble was appointed to fill the vacancy, and the new Receiver at once came to Indianapolis. While filling this office, Noble had many opportunities to meet persons of prominence, and he also made many friends generally. He had that rare faculty of winning friends and holding them. In most cases the same qualities that win supporters often excite the envy of others who are not so fortunate, with the result that they have a host of warm supporters and likewise a crowd of enemies and detractors. The office of Receiver of Public Moneys gave Noah Noble many opportunities for making friends. He often assisted the emigrant with the means whereby he could enter his land, and in many other ways accommodated and befriended him. These emigrants were of a hardy and earnest class, and rarely forgot a kind act. In 1831 Noble was a candidate for Governor, and although he was a Whig and the Democrats normally had a large majority in the State, he was elected over James G. Reed, Democrat, by 2,791 majority. This was the more remarkable, for Milton Stapp, also a Whig, was a candidate and polled 4,422 votes. In 1834, Governor Noble was re-elected to the office, his opponent again being James G. Reed. Governor Noble received 27,676 votes and Reed 19,994 votes. Upon the expiration of his term, he was elected a member of the Board of Internal Improvements, and in 1841, was chosen Fund Commissioner, an important and responsible position. Shortly afterward he was offered the office of General Land Commissioner, but declined it, saying that the State needed his services and his first duty was to the State. He died February 8, 1844, and it is doubtful whether the loss of any Indiana Governor before or since, was so generally mourned.



NOAH NOBLE
GOVERNOR OF INDIANA 1871-1873

DAVID WALLACE

DAVID WALLACE, the sixth Governor of Indiana, was born in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, April 4, 1799. While quite young, his family removed to Ohio, and had for a close neighbor General William H. Harrison, between whom and the Wallace family sprang up a warm friendship. General Harrison was then in Congress, and thru his influence David Wallace secured a cadetship at West Point. Wallace graduated at West Point in 1821, and for a short time was Professor of Mathematics in that institution. He was then commissioned a Lieutenant of Artillery, but after serving one year in the army, he resigned. Like Governor Ray and Governor Noble, David Wallace settled in Brookville, Indiana, which was at that time the most important town in the State. Here he began the practice of law and took an active interest in politics, being elected to the Legislature in 1828, 1829 and 1830. He was elected Lieutenant-Governor in 1831, and re-elected to the office in 1834. As a presiding officer, few were his equal, and none excelled him. His manner was dignified and quickly commanded respect. His voice was soft, yet possessed rare carrying qualities, and was modulated to the finest and nicest precision. His decisions were always rendered with justness and impartiality, and no stain of corruption or dishonesty ever attached to his name. In 1837 he was elected Governor, defeating for the office John Dumont, of Vevay. Governor Wallace was elected to the office largely through his warm advocacy of the system of Internal Improvement, which was then a very prominent issue thruout the State. Unfortunately, the system was extravagantly planned and poorly executed, with the result that it broke down and caused financial disaster to all concerned. There were those who laid much of the blame on Governor Wallace, and when he came up for re-election in 1840, he was defeated by Samuel Bigger, who had not been identified with the Internal Improvement system. Governor Wallace resumed the practice of law, but in 1841 was elected to Congress. In 1843 he was defeated for re-election. He then for several years retired from public life, with the exception of a few minor offices, in which he showed little interest. In 1856, Governor Wallace was elected Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, where he made the best record of his life. He died suddenly in Indianapolis, September 4, 1859.



DAVID WALLACE
GOVERNOR OF INDIANA 1837-1840

SAMUEL BIGGER

SAMUEL BIGGER, the seventh Governor of Indiana, was born in Warren County, Ohio, March 20, 1802. He was born on a farm, but being of a delicate constitution, he was unfitted for the hardships of farm life, and showing a strong liking for books, his father resolved to qualify him for a profession. After completing a common school education, he graduated with honor from the college at Athens. Later he studied law, and in 1829, he removed to Liberty, Indiana, where he began law practice. Shortly afterward he removed to Rushville. Here he entered actively into politics, and in 1834 was elected to the Legislature, and was re-elected in 1835. The following year he was chosen Judge of the Judicial Circuit, which place he filled until 1840, when he was elected Governor of Indiana, after an exciting race, in which he defeated Tilghman A. Howard. During Governor Bigger's incumbency of the Governor's chair, the State was almost in a condition of bankruptcy, caused by its ill-judged and untimely exploitation of Public Improvements. He did not possess the qualities of mind to devise, nor the power or ability to inspire others to invent, the means whereby the State could be freed from its financial embarrassment. His was a difficult position, and many men, even with greater talents might not have been more successful in overcoming the perplexing problems then at issue. He was a candidate for re-election in 1843, but was defeated by James Whitcomb. He soon afterward removed to Fort Wayne, Indiana, where he built up an honorable and lucrative law practice, and here he continued to reside until he died in 1845.



SAMUEL BIGGER
GOVERNOR OF INDIANA 1840-1843

JAMES WHITCOMB

JAMES WHITCOMB, the eighth Governor of Indiana, was born near Windsor, Vermont, December 1, 1795. In studying his early life, we are reminded of the early history of Benjamin Franklin. He had the same thirst for knowledge and was possessed of the same sturdy spirit of independence and desire to get along in the world. Being poor, it was necessary for him to cultivate habits of the utmost economy, which habits stuck with him thru life. While he was charged with being unduly parsimonious, it was to his credit that his habits of economy were practiced, solely that he might have the means whereby he could do good in the world, for he gave liberally of his time and his money to church and public charities. His early youth was spent on a farm near Cincinnati, Ohio. His father was often worried over James's love of books and was afraid it boded no good to the young man's future. However, the boy continued to borrow and read books, and by this means supplemented his short periods of attendance at school. Largely by his own efforts he fitted himself for college, and entered Transylvania University. By teaching during vacation, he maintained himself until he graduated. He then studied law, and in 1822 was admitted to the Kentucky bar. Two years later he came to Indiana and settled at Bloomington, where he gained fame as a lawyer and was appointed Circuit Prosecuting Attorney. In 1830, he was elected to the State Senate, and was re-elected in 1833. An example of his foresight, even at this early period, is shown by his bitter opposition to the scheme of Internal Improvement that was then being feverishly exploited. Whitcomb actively, but unsuccessfully, debated against it on the floor of the Senate. In 1836 Whitcomb was appointed Commissioner of the General Land Office. His thoroughness and alertness of mind are aptly illustrated by the facility with which he mastered the French and Spanish languages, to better enable him to handle the old official documents which he encountered while occupying this office. In 1841, Whitcomb returned to Indiana and located at Terre Haute. He quickly established a lucrative law practice, and very soon was regarded one of the most popular members of his party. He was nominated for Governor in 1843, and was elected to the office. Three years afterward he was re-elected to the office by a majority double that of his first election. When Governor Whitcomb took the executive chair, the State was loaded down with debt, with several years' interest unpaid and its finances generally in a deplorable condition. His early habits of economy now came into excellent service. His mind readily grasped the difficulties of his position. It was thru his efforts that money was raised by the sale of the Wabash and Erie canal and the State's credit so far restored that it was able to issue bonds at a low rate of interest. His success in developing a public school system and in establishing benevolent institutions, added lustre to his fame. In 1849, Governor Whitcomb was elected to the United States Senate, but his term was cut short by a physical breakdown, and after a prolonged period of illness, he died October 4, 1852.



JAMES WILSON
GOVERNOR OF INDIANA 1843-1848

PARIS C. DUNNING

PARIS C. DUNNING, the ninth Governor of Indiana, was born near Greensboro, North Carolina, March 16, 1806. He was given a very good education at an Academy in Greensboro. His family removed to Bloomington, Indiana, in 1823, and Dunning began to study law in the office of Governor Whitcomb. He readily profited from the tutelage of so apt a teacher, and became Governor Whitcomb's admirer and stanch supporter thruout his career. Dunning early became active in local politics, and was elected to the House of Representatives of the State Legislature. After serving three terms, he was elected to the State Senate. As both a Representative and a Senator, he took an active part in all the important legislation. His enlarged circle of acquaintance brought to him larger political aspirations, and in 1846, he was elected Lieutenant-Governor. When Governor Whitcomb resigned the office in 1848 to become United States Senator, Dunning became acting Governor, and served the balance of the term. He then resumed the practice of law, but in 1861, he was again elected a State Senator and in 1863, was chosen President of the Senate. This was during the civil war. Governor Dunning then retired to private life, and did not again take part in politics, tho until his death, he always preserved a lively interest in public affairs.



PARIS C. DENNING
GOVERNOR OF INDIANA 1848-1849

JOSEPH A. WRIGHT

JOSEPH ALBERT WRIGHT, the tenth Governor of Indiana, was born at Washington, Pennsylvania, April 17, 1810. At a very early age, he with his parents, emigrated to Bloomington, Indiana. The elder Wright was very poor, and had no means of helping Joseph to obtain an education. However, the boy was ambitious, and he resolved to forge ahead in the world. He worked at odd jobs, and at rare intervals attended school. He improved his spare moments by delving into books and asking questions of his elders. By hard work and by taking the utmost advantage of all his spare time, he was able to qualify for entrance to the State University. Here he maintained himself by performing all sorts of chores and at odd moments did hard labor in a nearby brickyard. An education thus gained is seldom wasted. In his two years' of attendance in college, Wright probably secured as much knowledge as the average student does in a four year course. At twenty years of age, Wright was admitted to the bar. He then removed to Rockville and opened a law office. He soon became widely known and at the age of twenty-three, was elected a member of the State Legislature. Thenceforth he was always actively engaged in politics and served several terms in the State Senate, and also a term as Representative in the United States Congress. He was an excellent campaigner, being ready of wit, and a forceful speaker. While he laid no claim to eloquence, what he said was always to the point, and most important of all, he always had something to say. He was elected Governor of Indiana, in 1849, defeating John A. Matson. He was re-elected to the office in 1852, his opponent this time being Nicholas McCarty. During Governor Wright's administration, the State passed thru many important events. It was a formative period, and Wright was always active in its development. He was instrumental in forming the State Agricultural Society, and tho not himself a farmer, he was made its first President. During the second Constitutional Convention, Governor Wright took an active part. His term as Governor expiring in 1857, he was appointed United States minister to Prussia, which office he filled for four years, and in 1862 he was appointed by Governor Morton to the United States Senate to fill a vacancy. He served as Commissioner to the Hamburg Exposition in 1863, under appointment by President Lincoln, and in 1865, he was again sent to Prussia as United States minister. He filled this office until his death, which occurred at Berlin, May 11, 1867.



JOSEPH A. WRIGHT
GOVERNOR OF INDIANA 1846-1857

ASHBEL P. WILLARD

ASHBEL PARSONS WILLARD, the eleventh Governor of Indiana, was born in Oneida County, New York, October 31, 1820. He was one of the youngest, as well as the most brilliant, men that ever occupied the office of Governor of Indiana. He graduated at an early age from Hamilton College and early began the practice of law. He at first settled at Marshall, Michigan, where he remained only a short time. Thence he went to Texas, making the entire trip on horse back. On his return, he stopped at Carrollton, Kentucky, and taught school there for a term. He later took charge of a school near Louisville. Thruout this period of his life, he was a close student, reading widely, and using all his spare time in improving his mind. The time thus spent was soon to repay him tenfold. About this time occurred the contest between Henry Clay and James K. Polk for the Presidency of the United States. It was an exciting one, and party spirit ran high, especially in Kentucky, Clay's home. Young Willard was an ardent Democrat. He had a natural love for politics, and readily embraced an opportunity to stump for Polk. During one of his political speeches at New Albany, Indiana, he created so favorable an impression that a committee of influential citizens invited him to remove to that city. Willard thought the opening a good one, and henceforth made New Albany his home. He took an active interest in civic matters and was elected to the Common Council. The following year, he was elected to the State Legislature, and from that time until he died, he occupied a conspicuous place in public life. His career in the State Legislature was one that quickly won him leadership. His alertness of mind, readiness of repartee, and charming manners won the love and admiration of his fellow members, and even those who were of the opposite party could not but admire his brilliant qualities. It is not surprising that at the next Democratic State Convention, in 1852, his name was popularly received for the nomination of Lieutenant-Governor. He received the nomination and was elected. As presiding officer of the Senate, he made an enviable record. In 1856, he was nominated for Governor, and at the election, defeated Oliver P. Morton. Both candidates were of the first mental caliber, and we may well believe that the contest was a hot one. Governor Willard filled the office with honor to himself and to the State, but in 1860, his health rapidly failed, and he died on October 4th of that year, being the first Governor of Indiana who died while occupying that office.



ASAHIEL P. WILLARD
GOVERNOR OF INDIANA 1877-1880

ABRAM A. HAMMOND

ABRAM ADAMS HAMMOND, the twelfth Governor of Indiana, was born at Brattleboro, Vermont, March 21, 1814. At the early age of six years, he came to Brookville, Indiana, where he passed his youth and early manhood. After getting a good education, he entered the law office of John Ryman, and was soon admitted to the bar. In 1835, he removed to Greenfield, Indiana, and began the practice of law. Not being satisfied with the prospect of advancement at his profession at Greenfield, after five years' residence at the place, he removed to Columbus, Indiana, where he formed a partnership with John Bradley. He was successful at the start, and was soon elected to the office of Prosecuting Attorney of his Circuit. In 1846, Hammond and Bradley removed to Indianapolis, but one year later, they removed to Cincinnati. Neither was satisfied with the new location, and both soon returned to Indianapolis. Hammond immediately plunged into politics and was chosen the first Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Marion County. He seems, however, to have been possessed of a spirit of restlessness, for it was not long until he departed for San Francisco, where he formed a law partnership with Rufus A. Lockwood. The following year, he again returned to Indiana, and in 1855, settled at Terre Haute. While Abram Hammond was neither a brilliant scholar, nor possessed of great oratorical powers, he was a good lawyer. His mind was clear and logical, and he was a very close observer. His ability was far above the average, and notwithstanding his many changes of location, he was eminently successful at each of them. Within one year after he had settled at Terre Haute, he had reached such prominence that he was nominated and elected to the office of Lieutenant-Governor, on the same ticket with Governor Willard. Upon the death of the latter, in 1860, Hammond succeeded to the Governor's office, and on Friday, January 11, 1861, he delivered his first and only message to the Legislature. His administration of the office was able, and he was instrumental in the passage of many needed laws, made necessary by those abnormal and troublous times. Governor Hammond's term expired January 14, 1861, and he then returned to the practice of his profession, which, however, was much interrupted by ill health. He suffered acutely from rheumatism and became so badly crippled that he was compelled to walk on crutches. He died at Denver, Colorado, August 27, 1874.



ABRAM A. HAMMOND
GOVERNOR OF INDIANA 1860

HENRY S. LANE

HENRY SMITH LANE, the thirteenth Governor of Indiana, was born in Montgomery County, Kentucky, February 11, 1811. He enjoyed the advantages of a good education, and when twenty-one years old, was admitted to the Kentucky bar. Three years later, he removed to Crawfordsville, Ind., where he soon gained a reputation as a lawyer, and was particularly successful in criminal cases. He became prominent in politics, and in 1837 was elected to the State Legislature. Three years later, he became a candidate for a seat in Congress, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of General Howard. Lane's opponent was Edward A. Hannegan. After a spirited race, Lane was elected. The following year he was re-elected to the office, this time defeating John Bryce. In 1844, during the candidacy of Henry Clay for the Presidency of the United States, Lane gave his whole time and energies in Clay's behalf. None mourned Clay's defeat more than he. When the Mexican War broke out in 1846, Lane earnestly engaged in the work of raising troops. He made speeches to the people, and by his eloquence raised the war spirit of his hearers to the highest pitch. A company of volunteers was organized, and Lane was chosen Major of a regiment. He was soon promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel, and served until his regiment was mustered out of service. In 1849, Colonel Lane was again a candidate for Congress, but was defeated by Joseph E. McDonald, certainly a worthy opponent. Lane had always been a Whig, and when the Republican party was formed, he readily assumed leadership in his State. By this time he had obtained a national reputation. He was chosen President of the National Convention of the Republican party, held in 1856. In public speaking Lane possessed rare accomplishment, and his addresses at the Convention aroused the utmost enthusiasm among the delegates. Fremont and Dayton were nominated for President and Vice-president, and Lane immediately took the platform in their support. In 1859, Colonel Lane was elected by the Indiana Legislature to the United States Senate. However, his seat was contested and the Senate decided against him. In 1860, he was nominated for Governor, and after a spirited contest, was elected, defeating Thomas A. Hendricks. Governor Lane's occupancy of the Governor's chair was very brief, for just two days after delivering his message to the Legislature, he was elected to the United States Senate. He resigned the governorship and served in the Senate with credit to himself and his constituents. When his term expired, he returned to Crawfordsville, where he died June 18, 1881.



HENRY S. LANE
GOVERNOR OF INDIANA 1861

OLIVER P. MORTON

OLIVER PERRY MORTON, the fourteenth Governor of Indiana, was born at Salisbury, Wayne County, Indiana, August 4, 1823, and was the first Governor to be born within the boundaries of the State. His family was of English origin, and the original name was Throckmorton. However, Morton's father discarded "Throck" and thenceforth the name was just plain "Morton." Young Morton attended Professor Hoshour's Academy at Centerville, but the poverty of his family compelled him to go to work at an early age. He learned the hatter's trade with an older brother, which business he followed for four years. His ambition being then aroused, he began to study law, both at Miami University and in the office of Judge Newman. Morton had a keen mind, and he quickly rose to prominence in the legal profession. In 1852, he was elected Circuit Judge, but not liking the duties of the position, he soon returned to his practice. Morton had always been a Democrat. As the County was strongly Whig, he had little chance of securing elective office. The repeal of the Missouri Compromise created dissension in the Democratic party, and Judge Morton drew away from it and joined the People's party, which in 1856 was merged with the Republican party. Morton was a delegate to the Pittsburgh Convention that year and took an active part therein. During that same year he was unanimously nominated for Governor of Indiana, but was defeated by Ashbel P. Willard. The campaign between Morton and Willard was one of the most spectacular that was ever held within the State. Both were brilliant men, and both were forceful speakers, Willard being the more eloquent, while Morton's manner was the more convincing. Tho defeated, Morton's popularity with his party was very great, and he was recognized as one of the strong men of the State. In 1860, he was elected Lieutenant-Governor of Indiana on the ticket with Henry S. Lane. Upon the resignation of Governor Lane to accept the office of United States Senator, Oliver P. Morton became Governor. The period during which Governor Morton held this office was one of great stress and excitement, occasioned by the war of the Rebellion. He early realized the seriousness of the situation, and resolved to combat it with firmness. When President Lincoln, three days after the attack on Fort Sumter, called for 75,000 men to put down the rebellion, Governor Morton immediately telegraphed him as follows: "On behalf of the State of Indiana, I tender you for the defense of the nation, and to uphold the authority of the Government, ten thousand men." Governor Morton's conduct thruout the war was patriotic to the last degree, and at its conclusion, he was recognized as one of the greatest war Governors in the Union. He resigned his office as Governor to become United States Senator, which place he occupied until his death, November 1, 1877.



OLIVER P. MORTON
GOVERNOR OF INDIANA 1861-1867

CONRAD BAKER

CONRAD BAKER, the fifteenth Governor of Indiana, was born in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, February 12, 1817. He was the son of a farmer and underwent the usual hardships of the country boy in pioneer days in his efforts to get an education. His early schooling was obtained at Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, attending school during the brief winter term and working the rest of the time on his father's farm. At the age of fifteen he was admitted to a college in Gettysburg. There he graduated with honor, and immediately took up the study of law, being admitted to the bar at Gettysburg, in 1839. After practicing successfully for two years, he became possessed of a desire to go West, and settled at Evansville, Indiana. Here he remained for five years, and served one term in the State Legislature. He then removed to Boonville, where he continued to take an active interest in public affairs. In 1852, he was elected Judge of the Circuit Court of Warrick County, and four years later was nominated Lieutenant-Governor of Indiana, the nomination being made without his knowledge, and without his being a candidate for the office. He accepted the nomination, but was defeated at the election. When war was declared in 1861, he was commissioned Colonel of the First Indiana Cavalry and served with distinction under General Fremont and others. In 1865, he was appointed to fill a vacancy in the office of Lieutenant-Governor with Governor Oliver P. Morton. When the latter resigned to assume the office of United States Senator, Colonel Baker became Acting-Governor. At the end of the term, he was himself elected Governor, and during his administration of the office, that is during the re-construction period following the war, he influenced much important legislation. Governor Baker was always regarded as a man of the highest character. He possessed qualities of mind far above the average. Whether as a lawyer, a citizen, or a friend, the esteem in which he was held by all who knew him was remarkable, especially as he was a man of retiring disposition, with quiet manners, and with no particular accomplishment as a talker, or as a public speaker. Most of his success was won by his shrewd knowledge of human nature and the solid, logical bent of his mind—"just plain, hard common sense" he would have called it. Upon the expiration of his term as Governor, he returned to the practice of law in Indianapolis, where he died April 28, 1885.



CONRAD BAKER
GOVERNOR OF INDIANA 1867-1873

THOMAS A. HENDRICKS

THOMAS ANDREWS HENDRICKS, the sixteenth Governor of Indiana, was born on a farm in Muskingum County, Ohio, September 17, 1819. When he was six months old his parents removed to Madison, Indiana, and three years later settled in Shelby County, Indiana. Hendricks's early education was obtained in the public school at Shelbyville, and he later attended Hanover College. He studied law in the office of Judge Major, of Shelbyville, and in the office of his uncle, Judge Thomson, an eminent jurist of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. He returned to Shelbyville, where he soon built up a fine law practice. Interesting himself in politics, he was elected to the State Legislature in 1848, and two years later was chosen Senatorial Delegate to the Constitutional Convention. In 1851 he was elected to Congress, and re-elected in 1852. In 1855 President Pierce appointed him Commissioner of the General Land office, which office he held four years. In 1860 he was nominated for Governor, but was defeated by Henry S. Lane. He then removed to Indianapolis and in 1862 was elected to the United States Senate. His term of six years covered the exciting period of the war and the reconstruction years following. Hendricks supported appropriations to equip and pay the soldiers and favored the payment of bounties to induce enlistment, but opposed conscription acts and all measures to recruit the army by drafts. In 1868 he was a candidate for Governor, but was defeated by Conrad Baker. He resumed the practice of law in Indianapolis in partnership with his cousin, Major A. W. Hendricks, and Oscar B. Hord. Thomas A. Hendricks was very successful as a trial lawyer, and had the faculty of gathering instantly the threads of a tangled case and carrying it to a successful end. His grasp of legal points amounted almost to intuition, and his capacity to arrange facts systematically was unsurpassed. His manner before a jury was unaffected, earnest, persuasive, and when he finished their view of the case was usually in agreement with his own. In 1872 Hendricks was again nominated for Governor, and was elected in a very close contest, all other candidates on his ticket being defeated, except one. His conduct of the office was able and dignified and reflected great credit on the State. In 1876 his name was presented for the Presidency of the United States, but the influence of Tilden was too strong, and he was prevailed upon to accept second place on the ticket. Hendricks actively canvassed in several states. The contest was not ended by the election, but was decided by an electoral commission, in favor of President Hayes. Governor Hendricks now formed a law partnership with former Governor Baker. In 1884 Governor Hendricks was nominated and elected Vice-President of the United States on the ticket with Grover Cleveland. He died in Indianapolis November 25, 1885.



THOMAS A. HENDRICKS
GOVERNOR OF INDIANA 1873-1877

JAMES D. WILLIAMS

JAMES DOUGLAS WILLIAMS, the seventeenth Governor of Indiana, was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, January 16, 1808. His family removed to Knox County, Indiana, in 1818, and settled near Vincennes. Here he remained until January, 1877, when he removed to Indianapolis to take the Governor's chair. When Governor Williams first came to Indiana, the State was yet new and was sparsely populated. He underwent all the struggles and hardships of the pioneer and experienced the usual difficulties of a poor farmer's boy in getting an education. The little schooling he received was obtained in the log school house during short periods of his release from his labors on his father's farm. But if he failed to acquire much book learning, he was more successful in gaining an education of the ways of the world. While not learned or widely read, he was well grounded in basic principles and had a good general knowledge of current events. He was known for his industry and enterprise and was held in the highest esteem by his associates. When he reached the age of twenty, his father died, and upon him devolved the care of the farm and the raising of his five younger brothers and sisters. Governor Williams entered public life in 1839 as Justice of the Peace. His knowledge of law was limited, but his decisions always showed rare good sense and undoubted fairness. In 1843 he resigned the office to take a seat in the State Legislature. There he served almost continuously until 1874, during which time he influenced the passage of many good and wise laws and was a member of many important committees. He was a candidate for United States Senator in 1872, but was defeated by Governor Morton. In 1874 he was elected to Congress. One morning while serving as congressman he received a telegram informing him that he had been nominated for Governor of Indiana. He was greatly surprised, for he had not been a candidate for the office. The ensuing campaign was a memorable one. His opponent was Benjamin Harrison. Governor Williams always dressed plainly, and in the heat of the campaign it was sought to ridicule him by calling him "Blue Jeans." Instead of creating disrespect for him, the name met the popular fancy and "Blue Jeans" clubs were formed thruout the State. To the surprise of almost every one, Williams was elected to the office, which he administered with excellent executive ability. He died before his term expired, on November 20, 1880.



JAMES D. WILLIAMS
GOVERNOR OF INDIANA 1877-1881

ALBERT G. PORTER

ALBERT GALLATIN PORTER, the eighteenth Governor of Indiana, was born in Lawrenceburg, Indiana, April 20, 1824. He was the second Indiana Governor to be born within the confines of the State. His early education was obtained in the public schools at Lawrenceburg, Indiana. His family early moved to Kentucky and Albert and a younger brother were entrusted with the running of a ferry boat across the Ohio river, nearly opposite Lawrenceburg. From his earnings he saved enough money to enter Hanover College. His slender means were soon exhausted and he was forced to return home, but he resolved to try again. Fortunately at this period an uncle came to his assistance and provided means to finish his course. He entered Asbury (now DePauw) University at Greencastle, where he graduated in 1843. He returned to Lawrenceburg and studied law with Philip Spooner, then removed to Indianapolis and opened a law office. He was successful from the start and soon his fine legal knowledge and affable manners won him a large practice. He was City Attorney from 1851 to 1853, when, a vacancy occurring in the office of Reporter of the Supreme Court, Governor Wright appointed him to the office. The following year he was elected to the same position. However, before the close of his term, the pro-slavery character and tendency of the Democratic party became so apparent to him that he renounced allegiance to it and joined the Republicans in their first national campaign, supporting General Fremont for the Presidency. In 1850 Porter was nominated by the Republican Convention of the Sixth district as its candidate for Congress, to which office he was elected by a large majority. He was again elected to the office in 1860 and 1862. He supported vigorously all measures for the prosecution of the war. During his whole term he was an active member of the Judiciary Committee and drafted many of its reports. Upon the completion of his term he declined re-election, as he desired to resume the practice of law and provide a competence for his family, for which the salary of a congressman was then utterly inadequate. For fourteen years following he applied himself closely to his profession, gaining a high reputation as a lawyer and amassing a comfortable fortune. He was especially successful as a jury lawyer where important rights were involved. He was a popular orator and his public speeches were models of effective and convincing argument. In 1877 he was appointed by President Hayes to be the first Comptroller of the Treasury. He resigned the office in 1880 to accept the nomination for Governor of Indiana. He was elected, his popularity being attested by his getting 2,000 votes more than any other candidate on the ticket. Governor Porter's messages and papers evidence a ripe judgment, and his conduct of the office was wise and beneficial to the State. In 1869 Governor Porter was appointed by President Harrison Minister to Italy, and for three years he resided in Rome. He died in Indianapolis May 3, 1897.



ALBERT G. PORTER
GOVERNOR OF INDIANA 881 1885

ISAAC P. GRAY

ISAAC PUSEY GRAY, the nineteenth Governor of Indiana, was born near Downington, Chester County, Pennsylvania, October 18, 1828.

When eight years old, his family moved to Ohio and settled at New Madison. Here Isaac grew to manhood and became proprietor of a dry goods store. In 1855 he removed to Union City, Indiana, where he soon became one of its leading citizens. He at first embarked in the dry goods business, but later went into banking. He studied law in his spare time and was admitted to the bar. After several years of successful practice and upon the breaking out of the war, he enlisted and became Captain of the Fourth Indiana Cavalry, but was forced to resign on account of ill health. He also raised and organized the 147th regiment of Indiana Volunteers and was Colonel of the 105th Indiana regiment (minute men). At the close of the war he returned to Union City and established the Citizens Bank. In 1868 he was elected State Senator from Randolph County on the Republican ticket. Becoming dissatisfied with the administration of President Grant, he joined the Greeley Liberal Movement in 1872, and from that time acted with the Democrats. He was in 1876 nominated by acclamation for Lieutenant-Governor of Indiana and was elected. In 1880 he was a candidate for the nomination for Governor, but lost it by four votes. He was Lieutenant-Governor under Governor Williams. When the latter died in November, 1880, Gray became Governor. He was nominated and elected to the same position in 1884 and served the full term. Governor Gray was highly respected and was the recognized leader of his party in Indiana. Four years after completing his term as Governor, he was appointed by President Cleveland Minister to Mexico. He returned to Indianapolis on leave of absence in 1895 to attend the farewell reception given by Governor Matthews. On the journey back to Mexico he was stricken with paralysis and died soon after his arrival at the City of Mexico. The date of his death was February 14, 1895.



ISAAC P. GRAY
GOVERNOR OF INDIANA 1885 1889

ALVIN P. HOVEY

ALVIN PETERSON HOVEY, the twentieth Governor of Indiana, was born in Mount Vernon, Indiana, September 6, 1821. There he spent his early life and suffered much hardship and deprivation. He attended the common schools in Mount Vernon and began life as a brickmason. By studying law after his day's work he qualified himself for admittance to the bar in 1843. He gave to his profession the same close application and habits of hard work to which he had accustomed himself at his trade, and his rise was very rapid, in politics, as well as at the bar. He was a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1850 and in the same year was elected Circuit Judge of Southern Indiana. In 1856 and 1858 he served as United States District Attorney for the State. He had a brilliant record as a soldier during the war, being appointed Colonel of the Twenty-fourth Indiana volunteers in July 1861; in 1862 was promoted to Brigadier General of volunteers, and in 1864 was for meritorious and distinguished services brevetted Major-General of volunteers. He was in command of the Eastern district of Arkansas in 1863, and of the district of Indiana in 1864-65. General Grant in his official report awarded to General Hovey the honor of winning the key battle of the Vicksburg campaign, that of Champion's Hill, conceded by military critics, in view of its vast consequences, to be one of the five decisive battles of the Civil War, and second only in importance to the battle of Gettysburg. General Hovey resigned his commission in October, 1865, and was appointed Minister to Peru, which office he held for five years. He then returned to Indiana and resumed the practice of law. In 1886 he was elected to Congress from the Evansville district, which previously had been strongly Democratic. In Congress he attracted attention by the earnestness with which he advocated more liberal pensions for widows, and he was always a staunch supporter of measures for the benefit of ex-Union soldiers. Largely to this fact was due his nomination for Governor in 1888. The soldiers of the State gave him their solid support and were a very important factor in his subsequent election to the office. Governor Hovey was a fine Latin scholar and an accomplished writer of both prose and verse. He was strongly partisan, but was never vindictive or abusive. In person he was dignified and imposing, in character he was self reliant and determined. He was always popular with the people, and without doubt would have won higher political honors had he lived longer. Governor Hovey was taken ill in Indianapolis and died November 3, 1891, before the expiration of his term of office.



ALVIN P. HOVEY
GOVERNOR OF INDIANA 1889-93

IRA J. CHASE

IRA JOY CHASE, the twenty-first Governor of Indiana, was born in Rockport, New York, December 7, 1834. Most of his boyhood was spent in Orleans County, New York, where he attended the public schools. He later removed to Ohio, and there he attended the Milan Seminary and the Medina Academy. At the age of twenty he accompanied his father on a westward trip, driving a team thru Indiana and Michigan and landing in Chicago, which was then only a village. He worked on a farm and engaged in trading. In 1857 he joined the Christian Church and became an enthusiastic worker. At the commencement of the war he was the first man to enlist from Barrington, Illinois. He assisted in raising a company, to which he was elected First Lieutenant. Enlistments were so numerous that the Government could not accept all, and the company was disbanded, or rather absorbed into Company C, Nineteenth Illinois Volunteers, in which Chase was made Sergeant. This regiment saw hard and continuous service thruout the war, serving in Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee, during the first year. Ill health caused Chase to be discharged in 1863. He then prepared himself for the ministry, and in 1867 became pastor of the Christian Church at Mishawaka, Indiana. Later he had charges at Laporte, Wabash and Danville; also at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and at Peoria, Illinois. He had a remarkable power to hold the interest of his audiences. He was earnest, generous, sympathetic, and was greatly loved by all who knew him. He was very prominent in G. A. R. circles, was twice Department Chaplain, and once Department Commander. In 1886 he was nominated by the Fifth district to a seat in Congress, and nearly defeated Colonel C. C. Matson, who was elected to his fourth term. Chase was prominently mentioned for the nomination for Governor in 1888, and got a substantial vote, but was defeated by Alvin P. Hovey. Chase was then nominated by acclamation for Lieutenant-Governor, to which office he was elected, and served two terms as presiding officer of the Senate. On the death of Governor Hovey he served as Acting Governor from November 24, 1891, to January 8, 1893. At the next convention he was nominated to succeed himself, but was defeated at the polls by Claude Matthews. After retiring from office Governor Chase again took up his ministry work, which he continued until the close of his life. He died at Lubec, Maine, May 11, 1895.



IRA J. CHASE
GOVERNOR OF INDIANA 1891-1893

CLAUDE MATTHEWS

CLAUDE MATTHEWS, the twenty-second Governor of Indiana, was born in Bethel, Bath County, Kentucky, December 14, 1845. His father was a prosperous farmer. Until he was sixteen years of age Claude attended the village school. Naturally the boy became familiar with farming and stock raising and was of great help to his father. When John Morgan raided Kentucky the elder Matthews was fearful of losing his herds, and despatched Claude with a drove of 500 mules to Ross County, Ohio. This trip proved a momentous one for the boy, for before he returned he met Martha A. Whitcomb, the fourteen-year-old daughter of Governor Whitcomb, of Indiana. Later, when Claude was attending Center College, at Danville, Kentucky, it happened that Miss Whitcomb was a student at a girls' school in the same town. The young people found many opportunities to be together, and the youthful attachment ripened into love. Claude graduated from college in 1867 and the year following married Martha Whitcomb and settled on a farm in Vermillion County, Indiana. Matthews soon established a reputation as a stock breeder and in a few years was recognized as an authority on the subject. He led in forming the Short Horn Breeders' Association of Indiana, and was the originator of the American Short Horn Breeders' Association of the United States and Canada. He began to take part in politics. In 1876 he was elected a Representative to the Indiana Legislature, where he exerted his influence in the interest of the farmers. His popularity increased steadily and he was nominated for State Senator, but was defeated at the election. In 1890 he was nominated and elected to the office of Secretary of State, in which he acquitted himself so creditably that he came out for Governor in 1892. He was elected to this office by a majority exceeding that of any other candidate on the ticket. In his administration of the office he was wise and resourceful. He was conciliatory between factions, yet when occasion demanded he did not hesitate to use the strong hand. During the great strike of the coal miners, when all other means of quelling disturbances failed, he promptly put them down by calling out the State Militia. The same means were used a short time later to control the lawless acts of the railway strikers. Yet the need was so manifest, and the Governor's motives so praiseworthy, that after their passions had subsided the strikers themselves conceded that the course adopted was fully justified by the circumstances. Governor Matthews was genial and lovable. He had friends without number. To know him was to like him. What wonder, then, that the whole State mourned when he was stricken with paralysis while addressing an old settlers' meeting, near Veedersburg, and died three days later, on August 25, 1898.



CLAUDE M. WILLIAMS
GOVERNOR OF INDIANA 1893-1897

JAMES A. MOUNT

JAMES ATWELL MOUNT, the twenty-third Governor of Indiana, was born in Montgomery County, Indiana, March 24, 1843. He was one of twelve children and spent his early boyhood in the usual round of hard work on the farm. His only education was obtained in the district schools, but it was supplemented with hard study and extensive reading out of school. He early learned habits of frugality and thrift. He was an ardent patriot and when nineteen years old enlisted in the Seventy-second Indiana Volunteers; which became part of the famous Wilder's Brigade. General Wilder himself has testified to his bravery at the battle of Chickamauga. At the close of the war, feeling the need of more education, he entered the Presbyterian Academy at Lebanon, Indiana. His limited means became exhausted after the first year, but during this period he applied himself so closely to his studies that he covered a two years' course. He then married and rented a small farm, where he began housekeeping in a very humble manner. For more than twenty years he applied himself closely to farming, with the result that he acquired a fine, fully equipped farm of more than five hundred acres, modern thruout, and a model to his neighbors. His great success as a farmer led him to give his ideas in the form of lectures before farm institutes over the State, which won him wide popularity among the farmers. In 1888 he was elected State Senator and served four years. In 1896 his name was brought before the State Convention as a candidate for Governor, to which there were twelve prominent aspirants, and he was chosen on the seventh ballot. His unquestioned integrity and unimpeachable character won him the election by a plurality larger than was ever before obtained in Indiana for either a presidential or gubernatorial candidate. In directing the affairs of the State and in the expenditure of the public funds he paid the same strict attention to details that he had always practiced in his own business. It was largely thru his efforts that the benevolent and penal institutions were placed upon a non-partisan basis. Governor Mount was always a devoted Presbyterian and was active in Sunday school work. He was an effective speaker, being very concise in his statements and convincing in his arguments. The cares of office undermined his health and two weeks after the expiration of his term of office he died in Indianapolis, January 16, 1901.



JAMES A. MOUNTRIER
GOVERNOR OF INDIANA 1897-1901

WINFIELD T. DURBIN

WINFIELD TAYLOR DURBIN, the twenty-fourth Governor of Indiana, was born at Lawrenceburg, Indiana, May 4, 1847. His boyhood and early manhood were passed in New Philadelphia, Indiana, where he attended the common schools. In the summer of 1862 he enlisted in Company B, Sixteenth Indiana Volunteers Infantry, but owing to an injury to his left hand and arm he did not join the regiment at Camp Morton until October of the same year. He was refused muster on account of his injury, but insisted on accompanying the regiment to the front. He participated in the investment of Vicksburg, also in the battle of Arkansas Pass, but was soon compelled to return home on account of illness. The following spring he assisted in organizing Company K, 139th Indiana Volunteers Infantry. He refused a commission, as he preferred to serve in the ranks. This regiment was mustered out in 1864. Returning to New Philadelphia, Durbin taught school and worked with his father at the tanner's trade. In Mr. Durbin's own pointed phraseology, he "tanned salt hides in the summer and fresh hides in the winter." In October, 1869, he went to Indianapolis and worked for a wholesale dry goods firm, and very soon rose to a responsible position. He removed to Anderson in 1879 and assisted in organizing the Citizens Bank. He embarked in other enterprises, in all of which he was eminently successful. He had always taken an active interest in politics and for six years was chairman of the Republican State Executive Committee. He was Presidential elector and delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1892, and also in 1896. On the breaking out of the Spanish-American War he was appointed by Governor Mount paymaster of the Indiana National Guard, with the rank of Colonel, and on June 18th of the same year was appointed Colonel of the 161st Indiana Volunteers Infantry, which regiment went into camp at Jacksonville, Florida, but did not take an active part in the war. Mr. Durbin was elected to the Governor's office in 1901 and served his full term of four years, afterwards returning to Anderson, where he now resides.



WINFIELD T. DURBIN
GOVERNOR OF INDIANA 1901-1905

J. FRANK HANLY

JAMES FRANKLIN HANLY, the twenty-fifth Governor of Indiana, was born near St. Joseph, Champaign County, Illinois, April 4, 1863.

Young Hanly did not get much early education. His opportunities were few, for he went to work at a very early age. He was employed as a common laborer on various farms in his home county, and with his meager earnings he was able to contribute to the support of his parents. In 1879 he walked to Williamsport, Indiana, and was intermittently employed at sawing wood, between whiles attending school. By the strictest economy he managed to save up enough money to take a short course at the Eastern Illinois Normal School, at Danville. Thereafter for a number of years he taught school in the winter and worked at other employment in the summer. In 1888, while digging tile ditches, it was suggested to him by Judge Rabb of Williamsport that he take part in a local campaign and fill speaking appointments in Warren and adjoining counties. His speeches were a great success, and his friends wisely foretold a bright future for him. In 1889 he was admitted to the Warren County bar and began to practice law at Williamsport. A year later he was elected to the State Senate, where he at once took front rank as a forceful debater. In 1894 he was elected to Congress from the Ninth district. He served only one term in Congress, but made a good record and formed friendships that proved of incalculable value to him in his later career. He removed to Lafayette in 1896 and formed a law partnership with Senator Will R. Wood. Mr. Hanly continued to take an active part in public affairs, and was a formidable candidate for United States Senator, but was defeated by Senator Beveridge by only a few votes. In 1904 he was nominated for Governor of the State. After one of the greatest campaigns ever waged by a candidate for office, he was elected by the unprecedented majority of nearly 85,000 votes, the largest ever given to a gubernatorial candidate of either party in Indiana. Governor Hanly has always been a staunch supporter of prohibition, and in 1916 was the Prohibition candidate for President of the United States.



J. FRANK HANBY
GOVERNOR OF INDIANA 1905-1909

THOMAS R. MARSHALL

THOMAS RILEY MARSHALL, the twenty-sixth Governor of Indiana, was born in North Manchester, Indiana, March 14, 1854. His father was a physician, a direct descendant of Chief Justice John Marshall, the Revolutionary patriot and jurist. On his mother's side he can claim relationship with John Carroll, of Carrollton, signer of the Declaration of Independence. Thomas Marshall's early education was obtained at the public schools of his native town. He later entered Wabash College and graduated in 1873, at the age of nineteen. At college he was painstaking and thorough and a leader in the debates in his college literary society. He began the practice of law in Columbia City and soon won recognition as a thoroughly competent lawyer. In his county few important cases were tried but that he was employed on one side or the other. He gained a reputation thruout the State and was elected Governor of Indiana in 1909, by a plurality of 8,000 votes, a result that was due largely to his striking personality. His record in office was such as to give him national prominence, and in 1912 he was elected Vice-President of the United States, an office which he now holds. He was renominated for the same office in 1916.



THOMAS R. MARSHALL
GOVERNOR OF INDIANA 1909-1913

SAMUEL M. RALSTON

SAMUEL MOFFETT RALSTON, the twenty-seventh Governor of Indiana, was born on a farm near New Cumberland, Ohio, December 1, 1857. With his parents he removed to Indiana in 1865 and settled in Owen County. He had no opportunity in his youth to go to school, but in early manhood he realized that if he was to make his way in the world and achieve the position in life that his ambitions sought, he must have an education. He was largely self-taught, applying himself to his purpose with such earnestness that he was soon able to obtain a license as a teacher. For seven years he taught school in the winter months and attended summer school during vacation. He later entered the Northern Indiana School, at Valparaiso, and also attended the Central Indiana Normal School, at Danville, graduating from the latter in the scientific course in 1884. He then studied law in the office of Robinson & Fowler, at Spencer, and was admitted to the bar January 1, 1886. He began to practice law at Lebanon, where he quickly established himself. As a cross-examiner of witnesses he has few equals, and he is especially strong in cases involving the rules of equity, or the constitutionality of statutes. He is vigorous in prosecution of cases and is regarded by many as one of the foremost defensive criminal lawyers of the State. He was President of the Lebanon School Board for a number of years and was presidential elector in 1892. Other than this he never held public office until he was nominated and elected Governor of Indiana in 1913, of which office he is the present incumbent.



SAMUEL M. RALSTON
GOVERNOR OF INDIANA 1913-1917

Deacidified using the Bookkeeper process.
Neutralizing Agent: Magnesium Oxide
Treatment Date:



PRESERVATION TECHNOLOGIES, L.P.
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Cranberry Township, PA 16066
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